

# Half of Bardia Defense Lines Taken, British Claim Victory In Siege of Italy's Libya Base

## Australian Troops Advancing Along 9-Mile Front

CAIRO, Egypt, Jan. 4.—British military headquarters claimed victory in the siege of the Italian Libyan base of Bardia today, with almost half the Fascist defense positions taken and between a quarter and a third of the garrison captured.

An official communique said Australian troops, credited yesterday with the first penetration of the Bardia defenses, had carried on this break-through on a 9-mile front in the center of the Fascist lines.

Supported by dive-bombers which, the R. A. F. said, rained "tons of bombs" on the seaport town and caused "extensive damage," the Australians drove into the Italian positions for a depth of 2 miles.

The Australians were said to have carried out their attack "with great dash" and to have suffered "comparatively light casualties."

"Operations are continuing successfully," the communique added.

Attack Launched From Rear.

With more than 5,000 Italians reported captured in the initial penetration reported yesterday, military circles indicated today the remainder of the defense forces—said to be 20,000 in all—might as well surrender now.

After their opening drive into the defense lines from the southwest, apparently taking the Italians completely by surprise, the Australians were said to have moved south and launched an attack from the rear on the string of pillboxes and defense works guarding these approaches to the town.

Ancient tombs were said to have made up part of the Fascist defense positions.

The Australians were reported to have swept through in armored cars preceded by tanks, which smashed barbed wire entanglements and rapidly broke up the defense units. The latter apparently surrendered en masse when they realized they were cut off from their positions further north.

Last night's figure of 5,000 prisoners was considered to be too low. Revised estimates today placed the actual total at closer to 8,000.

The next stage of operations, it was believed, will be aimed at capturing the narrow, rocky valley down which winds the main road into Bardia. The valley forms a bottleneck there. Military sources said that with the Australians controlling the south side of the valley the Fascist defense position had become precarious.

In addition to its activities over Bardia, the R. A. F. reported "heavy" raids on the Italian seaport base at Tobruk, 65 miles west of Bardia, and on Gazala. At Tobruk hits on military buildings were said to have started "large fires" and to have caused a number of explosions.

Seven Italian Planes Claimed.

Seven Italian planes were reported destroyed to one British bomber lost. One British fighter on patrol was said to have intercepted five Italian planes, three of which it shot down.

A British communique last night said storming of the cracked defenses was continuing with such speed that the "mop up" might be completed within "a few days."

Dispatches from the Eastern Libyan battle zone indicated that the Australians, who the British said howled for action "when they missed the first sweep of the British counter-attack through Egypt last month, made their break."

(See EGYPT, Page A-3.)

## Jukka Rangell Forms New Finnish Government

HELSINKI, Finland, Jan. 4.—Jukka Rangell, an athletic banker, lawyer and businessman, succeeded today in forming a new Finnish government, ending a political deadlock that had persisted since Risto Ryti became Acting President last September 19.

The cabinet remained coalition in character, with only two ministerial changes from that which had served under the late Kivisto Kallio, former chief executive. Ryti became president December 21, the day Kallio died.

## Daring Forays Into France by British Motorcyclists Reported Giving German Invaders the Jitters

(This striking exposition of British moves toward invading the continent is the first of four articles from the vantage point of an on-the-spot correspondent—without the restrictions of censorship. It was written by William McGaffin, Associated Press staffman, who has just returned from England.)

By WILLIAM MCGAFFIN.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Britain has already begun to invade the continent—giving the Germans a quick preview of the mass attack British generals have promised to deliver.

I learned from an extremely reliable source shortly before leaving England three weeks ago that the British up to that time had carried off at least nine daring motorcycle raids into German-occupied France.

It's one side of the invasion picture which I believe is not generally known in the United States. The little trawler pushes softly

through the Channel darkness and anchors at a lonely spot on the French coast.

There is a muffled commotion as 50 khaki-uniformed figures steal ashore with 50 machine-gun-bearing motorcycles.

All is ready now. With a roar they dash off into the treacherous unknown of a blacked-out, enemy-occupied France. Another spectacular British sortie is in progress.

Young volunteers from the British Army make up these "suicide" squads which have three principal missions:

1. To terrorize and harass the German forces thinly strung out to a point, some experts say, of great vulnerability over a 1,000-mile coastline. It's a page out of the German high command's own copybook. No effort is made to hide the identity of the men. They wear the British khaki.

The British general staff wants the Germans to know that Tommies from the regular army have been

able to penetrate the lines of the vaunted Reichswehr—to thumb a small but defiant nose, as it were.

The British aim apparently is to bolster French morale and keep the Germans in an unending state of nervous apprehension—and to "remind" them of what Britain intends the future should hold for them, if such a feat is possible even now in Britain's admittedly weaker position as regards mechanized war equipment.

2. To capture prisoners and gather information from first-hand observation within the German lines.

3. Sabotage.

Sometimes the raiders go across the short stretch of Channel water in a trawler. Sometimes in a fishing smack. Sometimes the boats return. Sometimes they don't.

There is no money in it. Although a bonus is paid, it is infinitesimal compared to the enormous risk involved. Privates get an extra six pence (about a dime) a day, officers an extra pound (about \$4).

# Italian Lines Cut, Greeks Predict Major Gain

## Metaxas Is Confident Of Victory as Valona Drive Is Pressed

ATHENS, Jan. 4.—As Premier Gen. John Metaxas made renewed prediction of a Greek victory today, anti-invasion quarters looked for "an important development of the war" against Italy as a direct result of Greek penetration of Italian defense lines in the central sector.

Premier Metaxas told the newspaper Niki that Greece's war aim was to "secure the independence and integrity of our country."

"Our aim is the free development of Greece and of her moral and material forces—not of course at the expense of other peoples," the Premier declared. "We will not tolerate, either, any peoples who covet our rights to develop freely. These are the aims of the war which we are fighting and which we will gain until the end—that is to say, a final victory which, I repeat, will be ours."

Expected to Speed Up Advance.

Just where the Greek break-through in the Italian lines had taken place was not announced. But in well-informed circles the Greek army was expected to speed up its advance toward the important Albanian seaport of Valona, and latest dispatches from the front spoke of fresh losses inflicted on Italian forces which attempted to launch counterattacks.

The most important Greek gains were said to be in the coastal region and around Kilsura, in the central sector. In both areas the Italians offered strong resistance before they finally withdrew, it was reported. In some instances, it was said, they were forced back behind their positions they held when their counterattacks got under way.

It is along a road running from Kilsura, westward through Tepeleni, that the Greeks have aimed one of two simultaneous drives at Valona. The other column is fighting northward along the Adriatic coast.

Further Gains on Coast.

Further Greek gains also were reported north of Chimara, along the path of the coastal drive toward Valona.

The spokesman said "desperate" counterattacks in the Kilsura region were repulsed with heavy Fascist losses.

Italian tanks, he added, were driven into "head-on" fight. He said the fighting around Kilsura and Tepeleni had brought that whole zone under control of Greek fire.

The Greek high command, maintaining customary reserve, reported only: "Reduced patrol and artillery activity."

An Associated Press correspondent with the Greek Army in the north reported that Greek flyers told of "throwing stones and red boots" at Italian soldiers when they ran out of bombs.

Planes Dodge Around Peaks.

They fly, the correspondent said, from postage-stamp fields which would horrify a United States Government inspector, and would rather go aloft in the worst "peep-show" weather than in any other. This is because bad weather hides them from superior forces—they sometimes find themselves outnumbered 9 to 1.

"We fly low, about 600 feet, until we reach the Italian positions," one pilot was quoted as saying. "Then we drop down to 200 feet or less."

The Greek planes dodge in and out of mountain passes, around peaks, far below the high-flying Italians' planes and screened from them by mist, the correspondent said.

Italians Bomb Troops.

ROME, Jan. 4 (AP).—Italian bombing formations Albania carried out "effective offensive action on military preparations and enemy troop concentrations," the high command said today.

Patrol activity and artillery dueling also was reported.

## Nazis Keep Mme. Lubin From Singing in N. Y.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The absence of Mme. Germaine Lubin from scheduled appearances with the Metropolitan Opera this season has finally been explained by a letter written 81 days ago by the French soprano saying she was in Nazi-occupied France and could not obtain a passport.

"It is impossible for me, for the moment, to leave occupied France," Mme. Lubin said in the letter received yesterday by Edward Johnson, Metropolitan general manager.

## \$10.00 Reward To Protect The Star Carrier Service from Newspaper Thievery

The Evening Star offers a reward of \$10.00 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons stealing The Star Newspaper from carrier packs at the point of delivery, or from doorways or apartments after delivery. Any one detecting newspaper thieves should notify the police immediately.

The Evening Star

Up to now the greatest threat has

(See RAID, Page A-7.)



Another Variation on Noah and the Dove

## Japanese Officials Reject U. S. Marine Apology Demand

'Illegal Arrest' Denied; Americans Blamed For Incident

PEIPING, Jan. 4.—Japanese military authorities were reported today to have flatly rejected demands for an apology for the "illegal arrest" of five United States marines in a cabaret incident New Year Eve.

In a communication delivered to Col. Allen H. Turnage, United States Marine commander, the Japanese not only declined to apologize but declared the Americans were responsible for the incident and demanded that they apologize, authoritative sources declared.

The Japanese counterdemands were said to have been sharply rejected by Col. Turnage after a conference which lasted several hours.

The marine commander was reported to have told the Japanese that his demands for an apology still stood and that they were based principally on the manner in which his men were taken into custody and on their long detention.

## Insists Marines at Fault.

Col. Turnage previously had said the marines involved in the cabaret incident were not at fault and that he would take the matter to "a higher authority" if his demands were not met by the Japanese.

In addition to an apology he had demanded that those responsible be punished and that he be given assurances against future arrests of like nature.

The reply to Col. Turnage's demands, delivered by a member of the Japanese North China general staff, said the Japanese investigation of the incident had resulted in conclusions "at variance with the American attitude."

Held 17 Hours.

"We found," the statement was quoted as saying, "that the incident started when a United States marine entering the cabaret knocked a pipe from the mouth of a Japanese—hence, the Americans were responsible for the affair and their apology is due the Japanese."

According to the American version of the incident, the five marines were insulted by armed and drunken Japanese civilians and later arrested by gendarmes, who threatened them with pistols and refused marine military police admittance to the cabaret.

This version said four of the marines were injured by the gendarmes and that all five were held for 17 hours, finally being released on demand of Col. Turnage.

## Nazis Keep Mme. Lubin From Singing in N. Y.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The absence of Mme. Germaine Lubin from scheduled appearances with the Metropolitan Opera this season has finally been explained by a letter written 81 days ago by the French soprano saying she was in Nazi-occupied France and could not obtain a passport.

"It is impossible for me, for the moment, to leave occupied France," Mme. Lubin said in the letter received yesterday by Edward Johnson, Metropolitan general manager.

## Yale Names Nelson Coach, Smashing 69-Year Tradition

Ex-Iowan Replaces Pond; Elis Won't 'De-emphasize'

By the Associated Press.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 4.—Yale, the last of the "Big Three" to retain a graduate as head football coach, smashed a 69-year-old tradition today, naming Emerson W. (Spike) Nelson, former University of Iowa tackle, as its gridiron boss. He succeeds Raymond W. (Ducky) Pond, whom he assisted the last two seasons.

A bombshell bursting on the Elis' campus couldn't have caused any more surprise than the statement by Athletic Director Ogden Miller.

Miller, disclosing the appointment, indicated that Yale had no intentions of de-emphasizing football, which it first played in 1872, and released the Blue's 1942 gridiron slate which tended to substantiate him.

Harvard and Princeton, Yale's traditional athletic rivals, broke away from an alumni coaching policy in recent years.

Nelson, 35, who resigned as head coach at Mississippi State to come here in 1939 as a line tutor, was 11

(See YALE, Page A-3.)

# Vinson to Open Broad Probe of Navy Building

## Speed-up of Plane Production Sought By House Leader

Chairman Vinson, announcing plans for a "widespread probe" of the Navy's aircraft and shipbuilding construction by the House Naval Affairs Committee, said today the first two 35,000-ton battleships of the current program would join the fleet next July and September, respectively.

The battleship North Carolina will be commissioned July 15 and the Washington September 30, Representative Vinson said, explaining that they were the first capital ships built for the Navy since the early 1920s. Their construction was started in 1937.

Discouraged Over Reports.

In a statement Mr. Vinson said he had been "disturbed by discouraging reports by national leaders and experts about defense preparedness." He said all members of his committee had been notified that an inquiry would begin Tuesday to determine whether the procurement of aircraft for the fleet could be speeded up.

## Roosevelt Will Give Budget Estimates to Congress Wednesday

### Hopes to Complete Work On His Annual Message Early Monday

BACKGROUND—Throughout life of New Deal Federal expenditures each year have exceeded revenue, forcing public debt constantly higher. At first this continued imbalance of the budget was held justified by pump-priming nature of relief and public works programs. Now the emergency and consequent adoption of a great defense program are pushing the imbalance to new record levels.

## 608,000 Now in Army; Nearly Tripled in Year

By the Associated Press.

The War Department estimated today that the Army regulars and National Guardsmen actually under arms on January 1 numbered 608,000, representing nearly a threefold increase in strength within a year.

The Navy and Marine Corps meanwhile is fast approaching a total of 250,000 regulars and reservists on active duty.

The land forces, under present schedules, are to be augmented by about a half million men in the next three months, approximately 400,000 being selective service recruits.

A year ago when the National Guard was not mobilized, the Army numbered just 230,841 officers and men, of whom 215,000 were enlisted men, including the Philippine Scouts.

The arms expansion also has swelled materially the number of War Department civilian employees and officers on duty in the National Capital. The employees increased from 5,410 to 10,433 in the year ending October 31, and officers on duty at the War Department increased in the same period from 660 to 1,398.

War Department field employees on duty in Washington increased from 66,959 to 110,687 in the year ending September 30.

## Chemical Society Buys 16th St. Property

The American Chemical Society announced today that it has purchased a building at 1155 Sixteenth street and 1526 M street N.W. as a national home for the organization.

Largest of the scientific organizations, the American Chemical Society has 26,000 members. At its new home its neighbors will be the National Education Association and the National Geographic Society.

Directors of the society voted to acquire a home in Washington for national headquarters at their meeting in Chicago last month. The purchase of the property has been completed, pending the examination of title.

## Red Army Is Ordered To Conserve Gasoline

By the Associated Press.

MOSCOW, Jan. 4.—Marshal Semenov Timoshenko today ordered strict control of the use of gasoline and oil by the Red Army to build up reserves.

"Reserves are sufficient to meet all the needs of the Red Army, both in peacetime and war," said the army newspaper Red Star in an editorial announcing the order, but "every fighter is compelled to save fuel, remembering that this is the most valuable state property."

Russia is one of the world's largest petroleum producers.

A reduction of 20 to 35 per cent in the use of fuel was declared possible through making engines more efficient and using them only when necessary, Red Star said.

## Hong Kong-Manila Cable Reported Cut

By the Associated Press.

MANILA, P. I., Jan. 4.—The Australasia China Telegraph Co. announced its cable service between Hong Kong and Manila was interrupted tonight.

The company said the cable probably was cut somewhere near the Philippines at 8:30 p.m., but did not know the cause. The cable, one of Hong Kong's chief communication outlets, runs across the China Sea to Manila.



EMERSON (SPIKE) NELSON. —A. P. Wirephoto.